(d) whether stringent measures of selection of pilots and helicopters have been considered and by what time they are likely to be in force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) While no specific suggestion has been received with regard to norms for selection of Pilots and review of CAR, amendment to Aircraft Act/Rules is a continuous process and these are updated/amended as and when required. Requisite instructions are also issued by the safety regulator DGCA under these Rules to regulate airworthiness, operation, flight safety etc.

(d) Commercial Helicopter Pilots undergo initial training/conversion training for endorsement as per the training syllabus approved by DGCA. The training syllabus is approved on the basis of flying experience of the pilot and the recommendations of the Manufacturer. The helicopter pilots are required to undergo bi-annual Proficiency Checks as per requirements under the Aircraft Rules. The Proficiency Checks include recurrent ground training and specific emergency exercises. Also guidelines are issued to instructors/examiners for conducting recurrent and emergency exercises. The Proficiency Checks are conducted by DGCA approved examiners under Rule 41 of Aircraft Rules, 1937.

Compensation to passengers on cancellation of flights

4184. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that so many domestic and international flights are frequently delayed and cancelled causing great inconvenience to passengers and also loss of precious time, energy and money;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the provision of compensation to the affected passengers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Flights normally get delayed/cancelled due to technical reasons as well as on account of factors beyond airlines control. For some flight delays/cancellation depending on the circumstances, passengers are compensated by way of providing them hotel accommodation, transportation, meals, telephone facilities etc.

Further for cancellation/long delays passengers who are desirous of changing their bookings are provided with all assistance for re-booking and transferring on to other carriers wherever feasible. Passengers Disposal Messages are relayed to the enroute stations so that the passengers' relatives are kept apprised on enquiry.

Sharing of software expertise on Indian companies as a customer support to stakeholders of Boeing Aircrafts

4185. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider at harnessing the synergy of purchasing Boeing aircrafts and the process of sharing the software expertise of Indian companies as a customer support to stakeholders; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government for the present.

(b) Does not arise.

Implications of opening up the aviation sector to foreign airlines

4186. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the implications of opening up of aviation sector to the foreign airlines and private carriers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Opening up of aviation sector to private carriers will enable our airlines to optimally utilize the bilateral rights available to India and would also enable our airlines wean away traffic from third country carriers. This was also one of the recommendations of the Naresh Chandra Committee constituted to prepare a road map for civil aviation sector. Opening up of civil aviation sector will also lead to gradual increase in international connectivity to/from India lowering of.air-fares and will benefit the national economy as a whole and tourism, trade/commerce in particular.